

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-14 are currently pending in this application. Applicants thank the Examiner for the further attention given to this application.

Claims 1 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts et al. (US 5,440,648) in view of Ho (US 6,236,429). Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 10-14 are allowed and that claims 2-5 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 7 to include the allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 8, respectively. Claims 2 and 8 have been cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection and objection have been avoided and/or traversed. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to enter the amendments herein, reconsider and withdraw his final rejections and objections and allow Claims 1-7, as amended and claims 10-14.

Should the Examiner elect to maintain one or more of his grounds of final rejection or objection, he is respectfully requested to enter the amendments herein as placing the case in better form for appeal.

Should the Examiner believe that prosecution of this application might be expedited by further discussion of the issues, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant, collect, at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12/31/03

By: Heidi L. Eisenhut
Heidi L. Eisenhut
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 46,812

BROWN MARTIN HALLER & McCLAIN LLP
1660 Union Street
San Diego, California 92101-2926

Telephone: (619) 238-0999
Facsimile: (619) 238-0062

Docket No.: 6130-PA01